



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

May 19, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

One of the great parts of my job is having the chance to engage in a dialogue with different community groups on a range of issues and, today, that issue was the flood and levee protection bond that will appear on November's ballot. Earlier today, I served as the keynote speaker at a water forum held by the **Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce** and the **Fresno County Farm Bureau**. I gave the groups a general breakdown of the flood and levee protection bond recently passed by the legislature and the kind of funding that will be available to the Central Valley. I also let them know about a bill I am co-authoring with **Senator Jeff Denham – SB 902**, which would authorize a water storage bond for the November 2006 ballot, provides:

- *\$500,000,000 for the state cost share for construction of an upper San Joaquin River surface storage project;*
- *\$125,000,000 for completion of feasibility studies, engineering design, study and construction of groundwater storage, and conjunctive use projects for interregional benefits; and*
- *\$600,000,000 to fund San Joaquin River restoration above the confluence of the Merced River*

This is an important bill and it has received the support of a number of Valley legislators including **Assembly Members Juan Arambula, Dave Cogdill, Doug La Malfa, Barbara Matthews, Bill Maze, and Michael Villines**.

NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I had a chance to spend some time meeting with representatives from the **California Applicants' Attorneys Association (CAAA)** to discuss some of their legislative concerns and priorities. The **CAAA** is an organization committed to fighting for and protecting the rights of disabled and injured workers in California.

If you would like to find out more about the **CAAA**, please have a look at their web site <http://www.caaa.org/>

One thing that I love about my job is unexpected visits from **Central Valley** friends. **Kingsburg Mayor Leland Burgstrom** and **City Manager Don Pauley**, followed by **Arvin City Council Member Jose Flores** and **City Manager Enrique Ochoa** came by office. I also sat down with **Delano's Mayor Ruben Hill**, **Council Member Grace Vallejo**, and **City Manager Abdel Salem**. I really enjoyed catching up with them about the goings on in their respective communities.

They were all in town for a conference held by the **League of California Cities** (<http://www.cacities.org/>).

To read more about these communities, I encourage you to visit their web sites:

- City of Kingsburg <http://www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/>
- City of Arvin <http://www.arvin.org/>

- City of Delano <http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>

I also attended a reception hosted by **EMERGE**, an organization focused on educating and training young women who wish to become involved in politics. This was the third year in a row I have participated in this event and it's a lot of fun being able to give these young women an insider's perspective on running for political office. I also really love seeing young people exhibiting such a powerful energy and enthusiasm for public service. I wish them all the best of luck and I am certain some of them will be serving **California** in the coming years.

For anyone interested in reading more about **EMERGE**, please take a minute and visit their web site <http://www.emergeca.org/>

This week one my bills, **AB 2096**, made its way out of the **Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee** by a bipartisan vote of 5-2. **AB 2096**, which is sponsored by the **National Rifle Association (NRA)** would exempt gun safety devices from state sales and use taxes.

Not applying sales and use taxes to gun safety devices makes it that much less cumbersome for gun owners to purchase such devices. I really do believe that over the course of time, **AB 2096** will reduce the number of firearm related injuries in our communities.

There are currently many firearms that were purchased prior to the 1999 law requiring individuals to purchase gun safety devices to accompany their new weapon. As a result, many firearms lack the appropriate safety device to protect those who may be near them. As of 1999, all firearms sold, transferred or manufactured in this state must be accompanied by a firearms safety device approved by the **Department of Justice**. **AB 2096** would exempt from the state taxes imposed by the Sales and Use Tax Law, the gross receipts derived from the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of a firearm safety device and gun safe.

Also this week, two more of my bills, **AB 2322** (vote: 16-1) and **AB 2586** (vote: 18-0) passed from **Assembly Appropriations Committee**.

I am pleased both of these bills have successfully moved on to the next step of the legislative process. I look forward to continuing my work with all the stakeholders involved as we fine tune and improve these bills.

AB 2322 enhances accountability regarding motorized vehicles sold in **California** by requiring the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of motorized vehicles – such as the increasingly-popular motorized scooters we see many children riding – that are not already subject to registration or identification under the **Vehicle Code** to register with the **Department of Consumer Affairs**. This new registry will provide purchasers a valuable resource by allowing them to know whom to contact when seeking assistance or answers to questions regarding their motorized vehicle. At present, it is difficult – at best – for a purchaser of one of these relatively-inexpensive motorized vehicles to find whom to turn to when problems or questions arise.

AB 2586 is based on legislation I previously authored. In 2005, I authored **AB 1542**, which was eventually vetoed by the Governor. This year's bill has been tailored to reflect the intent of its predecessor, but has been modified to clarify that, rather than a mandated action of the court, the Legislature simply wants to ensure judges consider PTSD as a contributing factor to a veterans actions, and acknowledge that psychological therapy, as opposed to incarceration, is the most effective means to alleviate the emotional pressure that this disorder exudes on those afflicted.

Both of these bills will next be heard on the **Assembly Floor**.

Tonight, I will be attending the **14th Annual District wide English Language Learner Celebration at Compton Junior High School in Bakersfield**. The contest highlights the achievements of their students. The English learner students enter the contest by grade levels and the following categories: art, poetry, and essay writing. Congratulations to the following recipients at tonight's dinner:

ART:

1st Place: Marissa Rodriguez 1st Grade

2nd Place: Raymond Vasquez 1st Grade
3rd Place: Alberto Avalos 1st Grade

POETRY:

1st Place: Yessenia Gonzalez 3rd Grade
2nd Place: David Botello 5th Grade
3rd Place: Brigette Esparza 5th Grade

ESSAY:

1st Place: Chris Soriano 7th Grade
2nd Place: Stephanie Aguirre 7th Grade
3rd Place: Joanna Zendejas 7th Grade

Also tonight, I will be attending the **Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Dinner**. The **Community Action Partnership** is the **Kern County Community Action Agency** responsible for a wide range of programs including early childhood education and food bank services. The **Partnership** is holding its **5th Annual recognition dinner**, which is one of their largest fundraisers.

To find more information about the **CAPK**, please access their web site <http://www.capk.org/>

On Saturday, I will be in **Kingsburg** for the **City's 41st Annual Swedish Festival Day**. I hope to see many of you out there!!!

Also please stop by my **mobile district office**, where people are welcome to voice their concerns about issues and ask questions of myself and my staff. I will be at the **mobile district office** on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., but my staff will be there until 4:00 p.m. Staff will also be there from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

Becca's Closet was created as a legacy to **Becca Kirtman** and the project she started at her high school in Florida. **Becca** was killed in a car accident a few years ago, but her project lives on. There is now an official chapter of **Becca's Closet** on the **Hanford High School Campus**. **Becca's Closet** provides formal attire to high school girls who otherwise would not be able to attend their prom/formal because they cannot purchase a dress.

Becca's Closet is run by students in the **Hanford High School Partnership Academy** and dresses can be tried on, and given out, by appointment. Please come by **Room 554 (Mrs. Smith's room)** before school, at snack, or at lunch if you would like to find out about getting a dress for the next formal dance.

Anyone in the community, or any student, who would like to donate a gently used formal can help out, too. **Please call Carol Smith at 559-583-5902, ext. 8414**, or send an e-mail to csmith@hjuhsd.k12.ca.us for more information. They can arrange for pick-up or drop-off of your donations. I encourage everybody to help out with this great cause, because we can make a difference in a lot of girls' lives.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

The Capitol Network has recommended our district to receive scholarships for two young women to participate in **Women in Politics 2006**. The program is organized by the **California Center**, a non-profit, non-partisan project that strives to engage students in public policy and state politics. Since 1982, more than 15,000 youth from all parts of the state have participated in Capitol Focus programs. This summer, forty young women representing communities from throughout the state will congregate in Sacramento to explore public policy, political issues, and political processes, both in general, and juxtaposed with issues of gender. Our sponsors support this scholarship program because they recognize the urgent need to increase civic participation and gender equality.

Two high school aged young women (14-18 years old) from our district will have the opportunity to attend the upcoming **Women in Politics Program, June 20-23, 2006** in Sacramento. The program fee, \$500 per person, covered by Capitol Network, includes all dinners and breakfasts, lodging, transportation to Sacramento, admission to all tours and activities, and program materials.

The group will move about the capitol area for a series of lively interactive sessions with professionals representing the legislative and executive branches, lobbying organizations, and the media. Participants will examine contrasting perspectives on statewide issues, conduct mock legislative hearings and then cast their own votes. At the end of four days, participants are encouraged to return home to make reports and lead discussions benefiting many other youth and constituents.

Capitol Focus and the **Summer Institute on Women in Politics** are conducted under the auspices of the **California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development**. The **California Center** is a recognized non-partisan leader in efforts to encourage and support youth engagement in a variety of efforts to improve schools and communities. Our work is supported by a host of respected associations and corporations; numerous schools, cities, counties and state agencies; and major philanthropic foundations including the **James Irvine Foundation**, the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, and the **California Wellness Foundation**.

For more information, or to apply to **Women in Politics**, please contact:

James Muldavin, Executive Director
California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development
1220 H Street, #102; Sacramento, California 95814
916 443-2229 (Voice); 916 443-2297 (Fax);
www.californiacenter.org; muldavin@californiacenter.org

*****Please note that students will be selected no later than May 29, 2006, so please have your applications in before that day.**

INTERESTING LINK

I would like to direct everyone to a very interesting and educational web site, www.leginfo.ca.gov. In accessing this web site, which is even used by many seasoned legislative veterans in Sacramento, people can learn more about the legislative process and the kinds of bills being carried by members of the legislature. People can also find the contact information for a given member....or if you do not know who your representatives are, you can find out that information, too.

I hope you check this site out, because it can serve as a tremendous resource, especially for students working on their social studies and civics homework and projects!!!!

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford**, **Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1535: French explorer Jacques Cartier set sail for North America.

1643: Delegates from four New England colonies met in Boston to form a confederation.

1856: U.S. Senator Charles Sumner spoke out against slavery.

1857: The electric fire alarm system was patented by William F. Channing and Moses G. Farmer.

1911: The first American criminal conviction that was based on fingerprint evidence occurred in New York City.

1964: The U.S. State Department reported that diplomats had found about 40 microphones planted in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

1989: The Dow Jones Industrial Average passed 2,500 for the first time. The close for the day was 2,501.1.

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